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RESULTS OF USSR CONFERENCE ON GEOLOGY,
EXTRACTION, AND TREATMENT OF PETROLEUM

The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR heard a report by Dr Chem Sci R. D. Obolementsev, Chief of the Sector of Chemistry and Technology, Bashkir Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR. This report dealt with the results of a conference on geology, prospecting, extraction, and chemical treatment and conversion of petroleum. The conference was held on the 20th anniversary of the discovery of industrially exploitable petroleum in the Bashkir ASSR.

Representatives of scientific organizations of the Academy of Sciences USSR, of the USSR Ministries of Petroleum Industry and Higher Education, and of various other organizations took part in the conference. The conference summarized work on a number of problems connected with petroleum and brought out the most urgent problems in the fields of geology, prospecting, extraction, and chemical treatment and conversion of crudes obtained at the Second Baku and in the Bashkir ASSR, indicating ways for the solution of these problems.

At the same time, the conference revealed a number of shortcomings in the activity of affiliates. For instance, it was established that the Ural Affiliate does not pay sufficient attention to the introduction into industrial production of the results of completed scientific research work. Furthermore, the planning of work was not coordinated either between the institutes of affiliates or by affiliates with institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR and with the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry USSR.

The work of the conference permitted accurate definition of the directions in which investigation of petroleum problems is to be pursued by affiliates of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

The Presidium charged the Bashkir, Kazan', and Ural Affiliates of the Academy of Sciences USSR, with the task of considerably expanding the scope of scientific research in the fields of geology and of extraction and conversion of "pererabotka" of petroleum and gas. The Bashkir Affiliate was charged with

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the task of conducting jointly with the Petroleum Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR a conference on problems dealing with the treatment of heavy sulfur-containing residues for the purpose of carrying out a comparative evaluation of methods used at present for such treatment. This conference is to be held in February 1953.

It was proposed to the Petroleum Institute to conduct in 1953 - 1955 work on the following problems: "Genesis of Petroleum and of Petroleum Occurrences in the Ural-Volga Area" and "Geological Formation, Methods of Prospecting, and Principles of Exploitation of Petroleum Occurrences of the Platform Type." In connection with this, the Bashkir and Kazan' Affiliates are supposed to coordinate their work on these problems with the work being done by the Petroleum Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

The Presidium charged the Geophysical Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, with the task of giving aid to the Bashneftegeofizika (Bashkir Petroleum Geophysics) Trust and to other Bashkir organizations of the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry in connection with the analysis of accumulated geophysical data pertaining to the area of the pre-Ural depression (predural'skiy peregib) with the aim of clarifying subsequent ways in which exploration and prospecting for oil and gas are to be carried out. The Petroleum Institute was entrusted with devising a unified plan on the basis of which institutes and affiliates of the Academy of Sciences USSR will investigate the composition and properties of the hydrocarbon as well as nonhydrocarbon fractions of petroleum crudes originating in a number of areas.

The Presidium charged its Commission on Rendering Scientific Assistance to the Petroleum Industry with the task of conducting jointly with the Bashkir Affiliate a special conference on the problem of the composition and properties of sulphur-containing compounds and on methods for the treatment of sulphur-containing crudes. The Institute of Organic Chemistry [Department of Chemical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR] received instructions to give assistance to the Bashkir Affiliate in regard to organization of scientific research work on the synthesis of organic sulphur compounds.

The Presidium charged the Departments of Technical and Chemical Sciences [Academy of Sciences USSR] with the task of calling, in the first half of 1953, a conference of representatives of ministries and organizations which are concerned with the application of hydrocarbon gases. The purpose of this conference will be to establish ways of utilizing in the most expedient manner and to the fullest extent the hydrocarbon gas resources of the Second Baku.

The decision of the Presidium provides measures directed at intensification of the training of qualified personnel on a national level by establishing aspirantships and doctorships at the Academy of Sciences USSR.

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